severe adverse imapct on the agricultural production. In 2002-2003, several states including Tamil Nadu were adversely affected by drought caused by serious deficiency in rainfall from the monsoon. As a consequence, foodgrains production sharply declined to 174.77 million tonnes in 2002-2003 from 212.85 million tonnes in the previous year. Similarly, oilseeds production in the country declined from 20.66 million tonnes to 14.84 million tonnes during the same period. 1 Unlike at the all India level, for Tamil Nadu rainfall from the North-East monsoon is more important than the rainfall from the south-west monsoon as it receives from rainfall from North-East monsoon. Accordingly, for Tamil Nadu, the deficiency in the total rainfall *vis-a-vis* normal from both South-West monsoon and the North-East monsoon has serious implications for agricultural production. In the case of Tamil Nadu the production of foodgrains declined sharply from 7.73 million tonnes in 2001-2002 to 4.44 million tonnes in 2002-2003 while the production of oilseeds declined from 1.31 million tonnes to 0.76 million tonnes during the same period.

(b) and (c) In order to help the states suffering from water scracity, the Government has accorded priority to dryland farming. Accordingly, the scheme "Enhancing Sustainability of Dry Land Farming Systems" being formulated by the Government, aims at addressing issues like rainwater harvesting and its efficient utilization in situ soil moisture conservation use of organic manures, alternate land use, and adoption of improved dry land farming technologies. The focus of the scheme is on the arid and semi arid regions of the country, particularly in the districts having law annual rainfall and less coverage under assured irrigation in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

A sum of Rs. 2.00 crore has been allocated for the scheme during 2005-06.

Production of edible oils

1280. SHRI THENNALAG. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:
SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of edible oil in the country is going down year after year;

(b) if so, the details of demand and supply of edible oil in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the reasons for fall in the production of edible oil;

(d) whether it is a fact that the edible oil output is likely to be hit this year also; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to increase the production of edible oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The production of edible oils, primarily, depends upon production of oilseeds. The production estimates of oilseeds, edible oils (net availability from all domestic sources) import and total availability/consumption of edible oils (from domestic and import sources) from 2001-02 to 2004-05 are annexed as statement (See below). It may be seen from the statement that except for the year 2002-03, when many States/regions of the country suffered from severe drought, the oilseeds production registered a steady increase.

As may be seen from the statement total availability/consumption of edible oils comprising net availability and imports amounted to around 10 to 12 million tonnes during the period 2001-05 *(See below).* This is turn implies that in order to have adequate domestic availability of edible oils, the production of oilseeds to be raised to around 40 million tonnes from the present level of 26 million tonnes. The gap between domestic availability and domestic requirement reflects the relatively low yields of oilseeds, particularly in rainfed areas. The productivity (yield per hectare) in the case of India is much lower than the corresponding yield at international level in respect of important oilseeds like groundnut and soyabean. Figures of statistics of supply *vis-a-vis* demand of edible oils are not maintained at the State level.

(d) and (e) Since the sowing of kharif crops 2005-06 is still in progress, it is too early to assess the production of oilseeds and hence edible oils during the year 2005-06 at this stage. In order to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds/edible oil in the country, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), which covers 14 major oilseeds growing States in the country.

Statement

Production of oilseeds, Edible Oils (net availability from all domestic sources), import and total availability/consumption 2001-02 To 2004-05

(In lakh tonnes)

Oil year (Nov.-Oct.)	Production of oil seeds	Net availability of edible oils from all domestic sources	Import of edible oils	Total Availability/ Consumption of edible oils (from domestic and import sources)*
2001-02	206.63	61.46	43.22	104.68
2002-03	148.39	46.64	43.65	90.29
2003-04	252.90	71.64	52.90	124.54
2004-05	261.03 (4th Advance Estimates)	76.98 (Est.)	45.42 (Est.)	122.40 (Est.)

The demand/supply of edible oils is taken as net availability of edible oils from all domestic sources plus imports.

Simplifying deep sea fishing rules

1281. SHRI THENNALAG. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which Government are going to simplify the deep sea fishing sector;

(b) whether numerous rules and regulations have been put in place in the fishing sector;

(c) the extent to which Government are aware of the fact that some officials are periodically harassing the fishery sector through such rules;

(d) whether any guidelines have been issued to all concerned to avoid harassment and harm in the Indian fishery sector; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to sensitize the officials to treat fishery as a development activity?